

NEWSLETTER

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY

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December, 1971

1971 - HAIL and FAREWELL - 1971

REFLECTIONS

The Year 1971, for the Urban League of Essex County, began with a process of re-organization, institution of new programs and innovation of some old ones. The new President, who took office on August 1, 1970, had already set the tone for new horizons--the scope of the League was to be widened--the Staff and Board of the League were set on a course of "uniting the best wisdom of yesterday with the awareness of tomorrow."

Events, seen and unforeseen, had effect upon, but never stopped the basic mission of the League in going where the problems were to work on "institutional reform, mobilization, cooperation and unification."

Review with us some of the highlights of the Year 1971 affecting the Urban League of Essex County, its constituency and those who have been in the forefront of equal opportunities for all:

JANUARY

Involved in press conference on lead poisoning...conference meetings with HEW on programs affecting funding for the City of Newark.

With the cooperation of business and industry, the Teenage Venereal Disease Prevention Program held open house at 195 First Street, Newark.

FEBRUARY

With appointment by Mayor Gibson, the League became a member of the Economic Development Committee for Newark.

Executive Committee of the Newark Housing Authority Police sought the help of the League...(as a result of its work, League is proud of the fact that Senate Bill 2325 has passed the Senate and the Assembly and is now on the Governor's desk. This bill, when signed by the Governor, will make the members of the Newark Housing Authority Police regular police officers).

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League received position on the Board of Concerned Citizens for Martland Hospital.

MARCH

The world joined with National Urban League and Leagues throughout the country in mourning the loss of the Executive Director of the National Urban League, Inc., Whitney M. Young, Jr. Mr. Young died in Lagos, Nigeria, March 11, 1971.

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Witnessed the signing of proclamation by Governor Cahill declaring March 17 Whitney M. Young Day.

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This League had set March 15 as the kick-off date for its membership drive. Out of deep respect for the memory of our late National Executive Director and what he stood for, the kick-off campaign was held as planned with a memorial service for our fallen leader.

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On March 17 the Board of Directors adopted its revised Constitution changing the titles of "Executive Director" to "President of the League", and "President of the Board" to "Chairman of the Board".

APRIL

William H. Blakely, Jr. became the new Chairman of the Board--new members were added to the already active Board of Directors.

For the first time, the Urban League of Essex County had full participation in the Attucks-King Parade--complete with float depicting the "Tree of Hope" as a memorial to Whitney M. Young.

The League received, and answered, a call for help from the Black students and parents at Montclair High School in their struggle to retain a Black Guidance Counselor whom the Board of Education in that Town had not rehired. This case is now on appeal before Commissioner of Education, Carl Marburger.

A Black Caucus of executives of predominantly black organizations--members of the United Community Fund--was established. This organization is primarily interested in giving some input to the UCF on behalf of minority groups.

MAY

First meeting with leaders of the business community to request special funding in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Business has responded and that amount has been raised.

Presented an award to John Caulfield on behalf of the firemen of the City.

Began an investigation of complaints filed by black postal workers, at their request.

JUNE

Mortgage closing on four scatter site rehabilitation properties acquired by the Urban Housing and Development Corporation took place on June 8. HUD's Newark Area

Office approved FHA insurance for a Ninety Seven Thousand Dollar mortgage for acquisition and rehabilitation of these first seven units. (The above Corporation was formed by the UL Board).

Letter of Credit in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars was received by the League from the State Department of Environmental Protection. This grant was for the purpose of transporting disadvantaged youth to State Parks and other approved recreational and cultural facilities as part of the Youth Conservation and Recreational Development Program.

Barbara McCall directed the League's Black Student Summer Training Program which was funded by National UL.

Participated, as moderator, in a seminar on law enforcement sponsored by the Newark Human Rights Commission... attended first meeting of the Mayor's Veterans Task Force.

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund was named Executive Director of the National Urban League, effective January 1, 1972.

JULY

Under the direction of Alice Garner, League participated in the Governor's Youth Program. Of the 125 boys for each week's camping period, Essex County Urban League recruited 25 for the July 25th week; 30 for the week of August 1; and 29 for the week of August 8.

Participated in the ground breaking ceremony, New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry.

Received a Ten Thousand Dollar Grant with which to institute a summer youth for Hire Program which Juliet Grant directed.

Activities were geared to fever pitch this month with all eyes on Detroit, Michigan and the National Urban League Conference held July 25-28. Appealing for help, industry responded by sending eleven members of the main staff to the Conference...with added representation from the CEP Program, Board and Guild attending.

Mrs. Tina Bohannon was honored at the Conference when admitted as a Twenty Five Year Member to National's Quarter Century Club...President delivered two speeches, a local church in Detroit and at Wayne State University.

Sue Brown, Health Director, received national recognition in her appointment by U. S. Secretary of HEW to the Health Service, Mental Health Region 2 Council.

AUGUST

Stepped-up programs were instituted to widen the scope of the League. The President stated, "As a result of the new dimensions and plans outlined at Conference, we in Essex County see ourselves establishing varied new coalitions within the white, Black and Spanish-speaking communities. The League would not consider itself the leader of such a coalition, but the catalyst to bring it about."

Mayor Gibson appoints the Urban League Chief to Chairmanship of the Newark United Nations Week celebration.

SEPTEMBER

Earl Phillips decided he had enough blood to share and so, participated in a "blood letting" with President Stanley Bergen for the Martland Blood Bank.

Contract was signed between League and COA-Model Cities to fund the Health Information, Referral and Education Center.

New coalition started between Urban League of Essex County and North Ward Edu-

cational and Cultural Center, Stephen S. Adubato Director.

As a member Agency, the League was invited to participate in the UCF kick-off campaign "FUND-O-RAMA".

September 22 the doors of the League were opened from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P. M. for the registration of voters.

Addison M. McLeon, Director of Housing announced that the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has officially designated the League as one of 9 agencies in the State to serve as an approved Credit and Housing Counseling Agency under the provisions of Sections 235 and 237 of the National Housing Act.

As a convenience to constituents, was an outlet for the sale of tickets to the New York Urban League's Morgan-Grambling Football Game.

OCTOBER

The Educational Office of the League in Montclair was closed and all operations moved to the Central office in Newark.

Arrangements made with Radio Station WWOJ to do 15 minute tapings from the Urban League office for a community broadcast...first of which was done by the President and aired October 24.

As part of the new coalition, President participated in the Columbus Day Festivities...UN Flag Raising...UN Dinner...inauguration of Dr. Stanley Bergen.

Educational and financial drive on Sickle Cell Anemia...free materials were furnished by American Express.

Mrs. Lucye Lee, Board Member, and Tom Mann, Employment Director, saw the culmination of their activities result in the

opening of the Urban League's Secretarial Training Program.

President was a participant in a radio program on WOR (Barry Farber Show) on behalf of the Newark Boys Choir School... taped a broadcast on WBGO at Central High School for the UN Week activities... gave testimony before the Federal Trade Commission's hearings in Trenton on debt collection abuses.

We said "goodbye" to Andrew Byers who had served as Executive Vice President on a year's mobility loan from Port Authority--and "hello" to Earl Young, our new Executive VP, (not on loan).

October was a very good month for the League and the 15th day was a red letter one for the President--wasn't it Mrs. Barbara Phillips?

NOVEMBER

Under the co-chairmanship of Assemblywoman Millicent Fenwick and Public Service President Edward Eberle, with the inspirational words of Congressman Ronald Dellums of California, the Equal Opportunity Day Dinner was a success... thanks to the participation of our many friends. Victoria Foundation received EOD Award.

The Urban League and North Ward Educational and Cultural Center Chiefs presented the Barringer High School football coach with 50 tickets and transportation for his team to attend the Urban Classic at Rutgers... cost of this venture borne equally by the two organizations.

The League's Health Department moved into 58 Jones Street to begin operation of the Health, Information Referral and Education Center.

Recruited four youngsters to make the UCF Disney World trip to Miami via Eastern Air Lines.

The President, along with other community leaders, spent Thanksgiving Day at Rahway Prison after receiving a telephone call from the Governor's office to assist in quelling the rebellion at that prison.

DECEMBER

For her dedication and perseverance to the cause of the minority, the Urban League of Essex County honored Mrs. J. Russell Parsons by dedicating the office building at 508 Central Avenue as the MARGARET CHUBB PARSONS BUILDING on the 15th day of December, 1971.

We owe so much to so many. However....

A special thank you to the business community for responding so beautifully in our hour of need....

To Victoria Foundation for its continued support....

To Public Service and John Maguire for the unlimited help we receive....

To Jules Lozowick and Western Electric for printing the NEWSLETTER....

To Mrs. Lucye Lee whose unceasing dedication continues to be an inspiration for all of us....

To Mrs. Rowena Warren and the Guild on whom we can always count....

A very special thank you to Mrs. Sandra Johnson who volunteers two nights a week to teach our Secretarial Trainees.

And to each and everyone of you who contributed to the cause of the Urban League of Essex County....

THANK YOU AND HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY

William Blakely, Chairman
Earl Phillips, President
Clarissa Chapin, Director
Public Affairs